



J. TYLER McCAULEY  
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION  
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766  
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

April 12, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley  
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – CALIFORNIA  
FAMILY LIFE CENTER: HEMET RANCH, HEMET HOUSE, AND  
SUNSET HOUSE**

We have completed a review of Hemet Ranch, Hemet House, and Sunset House (Group Home or Agency) operated by California Family Life Center. The Group Homes contract with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Hemet Ranch Group Home is a 20-bed facility, which provides care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Hemet Ranch Group Home was providing services for one Los Angeles County Probation child, five Riverside County Probation children, four Imperial County Probation children, two Ventura County Probation children, one Santa Barbara County Probation child, one San Diego County Probation child, one Alameda County Probation child, and one San Bernardino County Department of Public Social Services child. Hemet Ranch Group Home is located in Riverside County.

Hemet House and Sunset House Group Homes are six-bed facilities, which provide care for girls ages 13-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Hemet House and Sunset House Group Homes were providing services for one Ventura County Probation child, one Riverside County Department of Public Social Services child, six Riverside County Probation children one Kern County Probation child, one Orange County Probation child, and two Imperial County Probation children. Hemet House and Sunset House Group Homes are located in Riverside County.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and an interview with one Los Angeles County Probation child placed in the Hemet Ranch Group Home at the time of the review. The interview with the resident was designed to obtain her perspective on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Because there were no Los Angeles County DCFS or Probation children placed in Hemet House and Sunset House Group Homes, the review was limited to inspections of the facility and environment.

**Summary of Findings**

Generally, the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Agency needs to address several areas where improvements are needed. Hemet Ranch Group Home needs to develop Needs and Services Plans that have specific and measurable goals; and provide the resident with regular opportunities to maintain a life book/photo album. Hemet House Group Home needs to replace two mattresses. Sunset House Group Home needs to date and label all bulk food items in the freezer.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

**Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management is required to provide a corrective action plan to the Children's Group Home Ombudsman within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:dl

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Paul Higa, Acting Chief Probation Officer  
Rodney Walker, Executive Director, California Family Life Center  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**California Family Life Center  
Hemet Ranch  
41431 Gibbel Road  
Hemet, CA 92543  
(909) 765-6955  
License No.: 330908390  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Sample size for resident interviews: One**

**Comments:**

The Hemet Ranch Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a rural residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. However, the kitchen trash can did not have a lid. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, TVs, and VCR/DVD players. There are books and resource materials, including computers with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendation**

- 1. California Family Life Center management place a tight fitting lid on the kitchen trash can.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: One**

**Comments:**

The resident meets the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. The resident received a complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plan (NSP) is current and realistic. Although specifically designed for the resident, the goals are not specific and measurable. This was discussed with the Agency's management who acknowledged the adjustments needed in the NSP. There was appropriate documentation to support the child's involvement and the placement worker's participation in the development of the NSP.

The resident has not been in the Group Home long enough to require a quarterly report.

The resident receives regular individual and/or group therapy.

**Recommendation**

- 2. California Family Life Center management develop Needs and Services Plans that have specific and measurable goals.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: One****Comments:**

The resident is attending school. Her records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports. The resident reported that she is provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feels that the Group Home is supportive of her academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of resident's daily living skills. The resident is involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

The resident is offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

The resident is not employed.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: One**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents with opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The resident expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The resident reported that she participates in planning some of the activities. The resident has free time and is able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents for one case file**

**Comments:**

The resident has a current court authorization for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that the child is routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

#### **VI. Personal Rights**

**Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: One**

**Comments:**

The resident expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. The resident participated in an initial orientation and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. The resident reported that she feels safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with her daily living functions.

The resident reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with her ability to participate in menu development. She reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and expressed satisfaction with the quality of the interactions with most staff. The resident feels there is at least one staff member she can easily talk to and trust.

The resident reported that she is assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. The resident is able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. She is permitted to contact her probation officer, attorney, and family members as needed. The resident is able to attend weekly religious services of her choice and feels that the Agency is respectful of her cultural lifestyle. The Agency allows the resident to celebrate holidays.

The resident reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The resident is aware of her right to refuse medication.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. Clothing and Allowance****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: One****Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the resident. The Group Home supplies the resident with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance and the resident is given the opportunity to select her own clothes. Clothing provided to the resident is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides the resident with the required minimum base allowance, which she is able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. The resident is permitted to spend her allowance as she chooses.

The Agency provides the resident with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

The resident is not provided with regular opportunities to maintain a photo album/life book.

**Recommendation**

- 3. California Family Life Center management provide residents with regular opportunities to maintain a photo album/life book.**

**California Family Life Center  
Hemet House  
25873 Hemet Street  
Hemet, CA 92544  
(909) 765-6955  
License No.: 330908393  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Sample size for resident interviews: None**

**Comments:**

The Hemet House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes in the neighborhood. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks. However, the two mattresses in bedroom number two are very worn and sagging.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including computers with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendation**

- 1. California Family Life Center management replace the mattresses in bedroom number two.**



**California Family Life Center  
Sunset House  
41021 Sunset Lane  
Hemet, CA 92544  
(909) 765-6955  
License No.: 330908391  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation**

**Sample size for resident interviews: None**

**Comments:**

The Sunset House Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is a large facility located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible. However, several bulk rolls of meat in the freezer are not appropriately dated and/or labeled.

**Recommendation**

- 1. California Family Life Center management properly date and label bulk food items.**